

Applicants : Costa et al.  
USSN : 10/557,586  
Filed : March 3, 2006  
Examiner : Nora M. Rooney  
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Atty. Dkt. No. : 1136-PCT-US  
Art Unit : 1644  
Date of office action: June 2, 2009  
Date of response : September 17, 2009

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for a telephone interview on September 14, 2009 to discuss what constitutes patentable subject matters. According to the Examiner, a multimer protein molecule comprising SEQ. ID NO. 4 would be patentable. Therefore, at the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants are submitting this Amendment in which Applicants have canceled claims 1-28 without prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue the canceled subject matters in future applications. Applicants have also added new claims 29-43. Support for the new claims can be found, *iter alia*, in the canceled claims. Independent claims 29-31 recite a multimer protein molecule comprising SEQ. ID No. 4. Therefore, these claims and their dependent claims would be patentable.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the Amendment has fully addressed the Examiner's concerns expressed in the June 2, 2009 Office Action, and should not raise additional issues. Therefore, the application is in full compliance with all requirements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to put the application in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below. If any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

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